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## Running for Statewide and District Judicial Office

Justice of the Supreme Court    Judge of the District Court

### ☒ Qualifications and Terms of Office

**Justices of the Supreme Court** must be citizens of the United States, residents of North Dakota, learned in the law, and possess any additional qualifications as prescribed by law. A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not engage in the practice of law. They also may not hold any elected or appointed public office other than judicial in nature. Justices of the Supreme Court must possess a certificate of admission to the bar of this state and an annual license from the state board of law examiners ([North Dakota Constitution, Article VI, Section 10](#) and NDCC §§ [27-11-01](#) and [27-11-22](#)).

The 10-year terms of office for Justices of the Supreme Court begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> following the date of election.

**Judges of the District Courts** must be citizens of the United States, residents of North Dakota, learned in the law, and possess any additional qualifications as prescribed by law. A Judge of the District Court shall not engage in the practice of law. They also may not hold any elected or appointed public office other than judicial in nature. Judges of the District Courts must possess a certificate of admission to the bar of this state and an annual license from the state board of law examiners ([North Dakota Constitution, Article VI, Section 10](#) and NDCC §§ [27-11-01](#) and [27-11-22](#)).

The 6-year terms of office for Judges of the District Court begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> following the date of election.

### ☒ Running in the Primary Election

The offices of Justice of the Supreme Court and Judges of the District Courts are non partisan offices. Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing at least 300 signatures (NDCC § [16.1-11-06](#)).

#### **A Complete Filing Must Include:**

1. A **Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)** containing the signatures of at least 300 qualified North Dakota electors;
2. An **Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)**;
3. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

### **Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination**

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 90 days before the date the petition must be filed with the Secretary of State. Therefore, candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **January 14, 2012**.

### **When and Where to File**

Candidates may not file earlier than 150 days before or later than 4:00 p.m. on the 60<sup>th</sup> day before the June 12, 2012 Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. on April 13, 2012**. Original filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

### ☒ Running as a Write-In Candidate in the Primary Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the District Court at the June 12, 2012 Primary Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the primary election. The sworn Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

#### **A Complete Filing Must Include:**

1. A **Certificate of Write-In Candidacy (SFN 50599)**;
2. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

### **When and Where to File**

Original Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the June 12, 2012 Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the Secretary of State is **4:00 p.m. on May 22, 2012**. Original filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

### ☒ Running in the General Election

The two candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and for Judge of the District Court receiving the highest number of votes at the June 12, 2012 Primary Election will automatically be placed on the General Election ballot. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot (NDCC § [16.1-11-36](#)).

No person may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination to place their name on the general election ballot as an independent for a non partisan office as is the case with partisan offices (NDCC §§ [16.1-12-02](#) and [16.1-12-09](#)).

## ☒ **Running as a Write-In Candidate in the General Election**

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the District Court at the November 6, 2012 General Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the General Election. The sworn Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

### **A Complete Filing Must Include:**

1. A **Certificate of Write-In Candidacy (SFN 50599)**;
2. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

### **When and Where to File**

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the November 6, 2012 General Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. on October 16, 2012**. Original filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

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## ☒ **Campaign Finance and Disclosure**

Candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and judges of the district court are subject to the registration and campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in (NDCC Ch. [16.1-08.1](#)).

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## ☒ **Forms**

The state forms (SFN's) listed above are available from the Secretary of State's office and may also be accessed from the Secretary of State's web site and Fax-On-Demand service line.

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